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THE KNIGHTS
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IT'S PARTY TIME!



THE SLEEPING LORD

Times are desperate for the earth champions of the Pendragon. In Australia, Ben Gallagher and Kate McClellan are in pursuit of a cartel pedalling in poached ivory and shark fins. However, they fall foul of a terrifying Bane-shark who ambushes Ben and, after a savage battle and despite intervention by Kate, leaves him for dead. In Hong Kong, Union Jack, joined by T'Challa, the Black Panther, have also walked into a Bane trap, sprung by a hideously-mutated Dolphin. The frantic battle cripples the freakish psychopath but not before he has killed Union Jack and left T'Challa terribly wounded. In Germany, Pendragon Peter Hunter has found his way into the very heart of the Bane's domain. In their citadel, the Spinal Tower, he faces the most lethal of them all: Grace, ex-Omni Corporation director now Bane chieftain. Grace's assault is unstoppable and Hunter's alter-ego, Albion, becomes the next Pendragon to fall. All this pain and death is felt by Adam Crown, who knows he must fulfil his destiny or all will fall before the awesome forces of the Bane...

17 *Into The Valley*

Writers **DAN ABNETT & JOHN TOMLINSON**

Pencils **GARY ERSKINE** Inks **BAMBOS GEORGIU**

Colours **EUAN PETERS** Letters **ANNIE PARKHOUSE**

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"DOES THE LAND WAIT
THE SLEEPING LORD,
OR IS THE WASTED LAND
THAT VERY LORD WHO SLEEPS?"
David Jones,
THE SLEEPING LORD

"I AM A BROTHER TO
DRAGONS, AND A
COMPANION TO OWLS."

THE BOOK OF JOB

WHOA, THE DESERTS
ARE MA EYES UNTIL I
FIND YOUUUUU...
I WON'T SLEEP UNTIL
I FOND YOU, AN WON'T
EAT UNTIL I FOND
YOUUUUU...
♪ ♪

BLAGDON RESERVOIR,
NEAR GLASTONBURY,
ENGLAND.









THE SPIRAL TOWER.

"GENTLEMEN... I CALL
THIS MEETING TO ORDER."

SHOULDN'T TAKE
LONG — JUST A FEW
POINTS. I'D LIKE TO
GO OVER ...



...AND THEN
WE CAN GET TO THE
MEAT AS IT WERE.
BUT FIRST...

...TO THE SOMEWHAT
DISTASTEFUL SUBJECT
OF AN ATTEMPTED
HOSTILE TAKEOVER.



Grace...



BE SILENT,
PENDRAGON.

ALBION, ISN'T IT? YES...
FORGOTTEN HERO OF A SPENT
AND GUTTED NATION. POOR MAD
FOOL WHO THOUGHT TO BREACH THE
HALLOWED SHRINE OF THE BANE ...

YOUR FRIENDS
ARE ALL DYING
YOU KNOW. TWO
ARE DEAD
ALREADY. DOES
IT GRIEVE YOU,
LITTLE ALBION?



AS ALL THAT
YOU CHERISH IS
RIPPED
FROM YOU BY
THE POWER OF
THE BANE?

THRU--TCH!

AAAAA!!



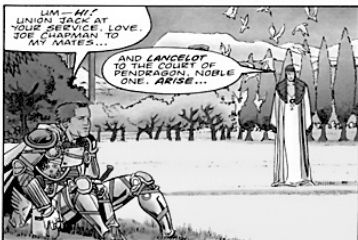
HA, AND SO THE CHAMPION
OF THE REALM REVEALS HIS
TRUE COLOURS -- A SICK OLD
MAN, HIDING IN THE DARK.
THE HUNTER HUNTED...

GRACE... IF I'M TO
DIE... IF MY DEATH IS TO
HAVE ANY M-MEANING...
TELL ME WHY...



OH DEAR, YOU'RE BEING
NAIVE AGAIN. HOW
DESPERATELY DULL.
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO
RUIN THE SUSPENSE,
DARLING PETER.

CUT
HIM DOWN.



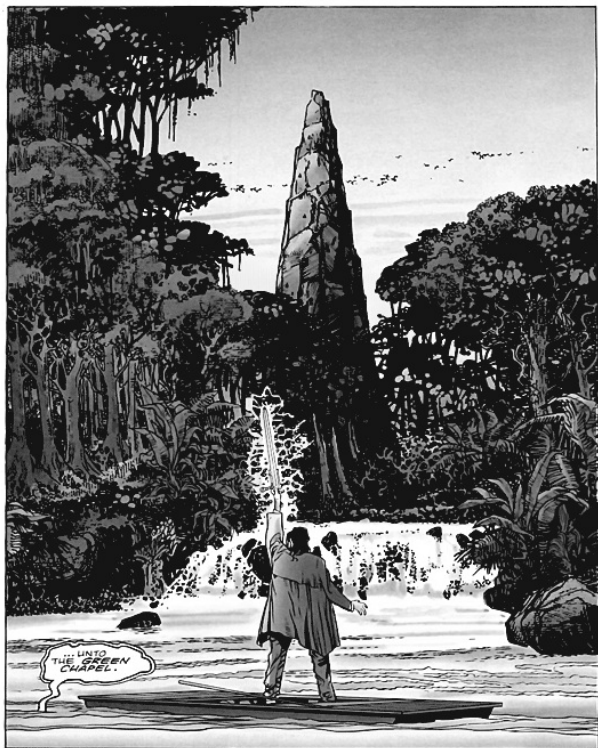


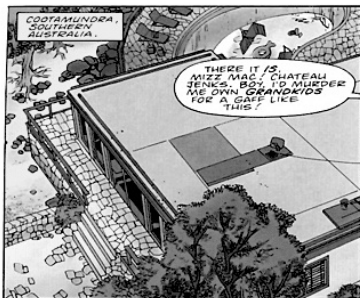
DAMN YOU — I CAN FEEL THEM DYING... LIKE *PIECES* OF ME BEING RIPPED AWAY. YOU GAVE ME THIS POWER —

— NOW TELL ME WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

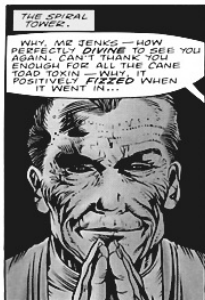




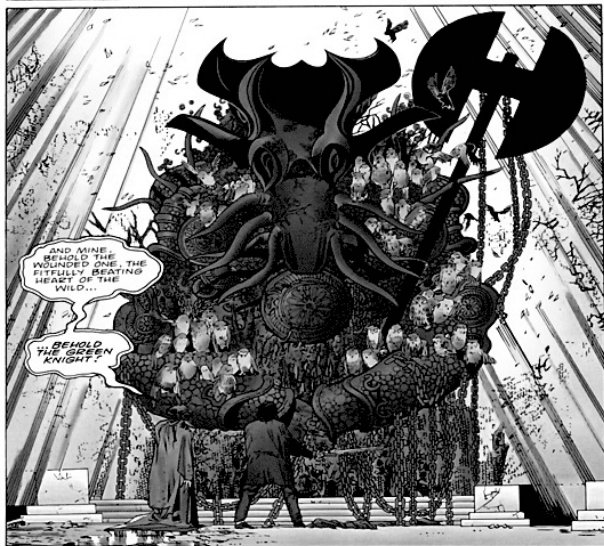
















AVAILON.



SO WHAT'S
THE ARMOUR
FOR THEN?
APART FROM
KEEPING OWL
POOP OFF, I
MEAN...

FLIPPANCY WILL NOT HELP YOU IN THE
BATTLE AHEAD, MY LIEGE. A **STORM**
IS COMING, A STORM OF POISON AND
PAIN, OF FANG AND BLADE BARED IN
CRIMSON FURY AGAINST THE GREEN.
YOU MUST CALL YOUR **PENDRAGON**
TO YOU.



MY **WHAT?**
LOOK, I DIDN'T
MEAN TO BE
DENSE, BUT IF
I'M GONNA GO
ALONG WITH
THIS, YOU'LL
HAVE TO GIVE
ME A TAD
MORE INFO...

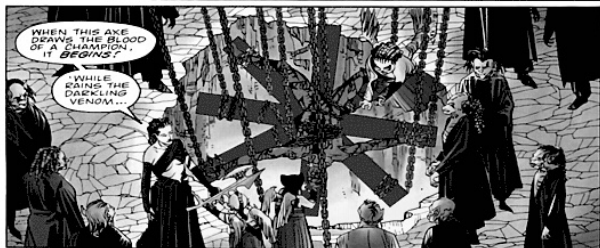


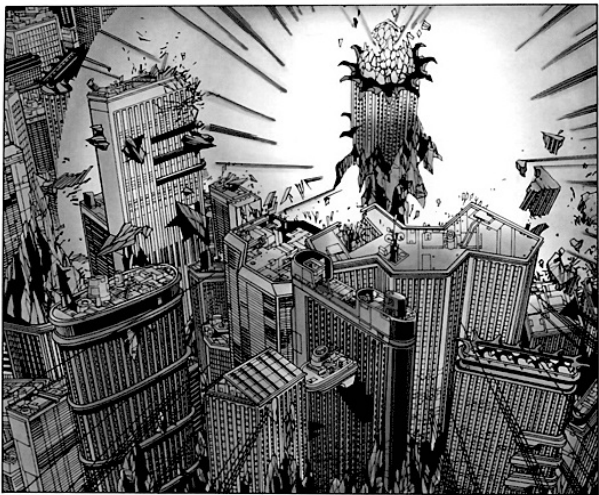
IT HAS PAIN
BEGUN. TWO OF
YOUR KNIGHTS
ALREADY
APPROACH, ON
THE WINGS OF
THE OTHERWORLD
— AND MORE
SHALL FOLLOW.
BUT THEIR
AKING MUST
SOUND THE
CLARION CALL.



ALL THE ANSWERS
YOU SEEK ARE **WITHIN**
YOU, MY LORD. LOOK AGAIN
TO THE **SWORD** FOR
GUIDANCE...







◆ CLASSIFIED ◆

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Dear P2P,

I had mixed feelings about the magazine at first but it's certainly pulled through. K.O.P. deserves to stay on the shelves for a long time to come if the team continues to pump out original and thought-provoking material. I agree with Peter Gallagher's point about the Bane. Now some questions:

1. Why has Dai reverted to his old, slothful self? Has the Pendragon spirit left him?
 2. Have we seen the last of Captain Britain in K.O.P.?
 3. Will you be introducing a few evil spirits from the Arthurian legends like Morgana Le Fay or Mordred?
 4. How did T'Challa get involved with the Fantastic Four?
 5. Will Simon Bisley or Colin MacNeil be doing any more work for K.O.P.?
 6. Where can you order back copies of K.O.P. from?
- Keep up the great work.
Mark S. Smith,
Loughborough.
P.S. The new logo is a huge improvement!
P.P.S. More posters please!

Blub, burbble, how!... K.O.P. certainly deserves to stay on the shelves for a long time to come... unfortunately, that's not quite how it's worked out. Now's as good a time as any to reveal that issue 18, i.e. next month's issue, will be the last in the present series.



PENDRAGON to paper

Now before you go off the deep end, the good news is that the *Knights of Pendragon* will return! *Pendragon* volume 2 is already underway, but there'll be a few minor changes in the team. Dan and John will continue to supply their writing skills, but we (as it stands at the moment) have a new penciller, a lad by the name of Richard Dolan. British readers may well be familiar with his beautiful fully-painted art, but this time, he's turning his hand to pencils. Gary, meanwhile, moves on to a new project called *Warheads*, but there'll be more on that and the other new material from *Marvel UK* in the near future. Anyway, cease your fretting. Be still. Sleep in the arms of the Dragon, for what once was will be again... To your questions: 1. Tak, tak. Not reading your copies properly are you? Dai sacrificed his champion spirit to the green Knight to help bolster his failing powers. However, as you'll soon learn, once a *Pendragon*, always a *Pendragon*. Now pay attention at the back! 2. Well, that's the real trick isn't it... 3. No plans at the moment, especially as we've got our hands full doing interesting things to the Bane. 4. Bit out of our sphere of influence really, but I think it was something to do with the Avengers. Why not write to them and ask? 5. Maybe. But in the meantime, you may be interested to know that Colin may well be joining the fold with

Marvel UK in the future. Stay tuned! 6. Try any good specialist comic shop. Or wait for the *Pendragon* collected edition that will feature the first six issues, plus a few surprises. P.S. You've just made John Tomlinson's day. P.P.S. Bit late now really.

Dear P2P,

Happy Anniversary, all! You began with a quotation from Yeats' *The Second Coming*. It might be more apt (while ignoring the exact circumstances) to quote *Baster* 1916;

Hearts with one purpose alone...
Are changed utterly,
A terrible beauty is born.

How about Byzantium, with reference to issue 9? *Literate comics*? So the *Pendragons* now have a headquarters, and are funded by Tony Stark? At least none of them have green/grey alter-egos. With the framework established, the ecological aspects will, I assume, predominate.

I think most readers appreciate the continued appearance of the plot summary – not only does it mean the story pages are freed for 'story' rather than recap, but it also provides an alternative for those who seem not to like the art team (I do, though).

A late comment on the contents of issue 9. The character Dionne Bell was very well-drawn, in art and words. So much so that I was really saddened by her death. Sensual, emotional, ended by brutality – obvious parallels with the cetaceans. Senseless.

If you continue producing characters of such depth (and hopefully keeping them alive), K.O.P. will endure. She could have been the *Knights'* Jacques Cousteau – 'Diving' Bell (sorry about that).

Jim Black,
County Antrim.

Please don't call Camalair a 'headquarters'. It makes it sound so... spandex. Let's call it their praetorium, citadel or stronghold, anything but 'headquarters'. The story recaps have been applauded all round, and are a lesson well-learned for the future. As for the lovely Dionne, I guess we were all saddened by the fact that she proved so expendable, yet such a nice character.
Ah me, such is life...

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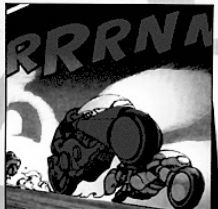
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